

USDA/Rural Development

3251 North Hwy. 123 Bypass, Seguin, Texas 78155 • e-mail: Clifford.Lehmann@tx.usda.gov
voice: (830) 372-1043, Ext. 4 • fax: (830) 372-0020 • TDD: 254-742-9712 - Web Site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>

News Release

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For More Information Contact:
Clifford Lehmann

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR THE KARNES CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Seguin, Texas, June 23, 2003 -- Bryan Daniel, Texas State Director, USDA Rural Development announced that the Karnes City Volunteer Fire Department has received a \$30,000 loan and grant through the agency's Community Facilities program. The effort is part of USDA Rural Development's national program to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

"USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Daniel. "Rural Texans can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance their quality of life."

The funds will be used to purchase a new rescue truck, which is much larger and better equipped and will provide additional rescue and emergency services to the residents of Karnes County. This project has also received donations and civic organizations to help in purchasing the rescue truck.

In Fiscal Year 2002, a total of \$12 million in direct and guaranteed loans were obligated. Community Facilities funds may be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety, and public services. These loans and grants are made to public entities and non-profit organizations. Examples of eligible projects include rural healthcare clinics, town halls, fire trucks, county safety equipment, jaws of life, early warning systems, community centers, libraries, day care centers, and schools.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Seguin Local Office at (830) 372-1043, extension 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>

